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June 1, 1994

Reed Hunt
Chairman

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

AUG 12 1994
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Policy (mark)

92-77

Dear Mr. Hunt:

I applaud your emphasis on consumer-oriented issues, particularly the proposed regulation of long-distance companies to allow their customers to use pay telephones without dialing access codes.

Why should consumers pay a call by call penalty for the deregulation of the telephone monopoly? This makes so much sense.

Thanks for putting consumer a/k/a taxpayers on your list of priorities.

Sincerely,

Dana Raphael

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16 JUN 15 3 27 PM '94

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Dana Raphael, Ph.D. 666 Sturges Highway Westport, Connecticut 06880

DONALD B. VAELLO
12000 CROWN POINT DRIVE
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78233

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July 20, 1994

JUL 20 3 08 PM '94
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AUG 12 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington DC 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Representative Hundt:

As both an employee in the communications industry and a tax paying citizen, I am stating my strong **opposition** to *Billed Party Preference (BPP)* for 0+ Calls. Further, I respectfully request your support in ensuring that Communications Commission Docket 92-77 is defeated.

Confinement facilities are unique and, as such, they require specialized phone system equipment. These systems permit a facility to block an inmate's call to specific numbers, block undesired inbound calls, prevent three-way calling and, overall, reduce fraud and other criminal activity. All of these capabilities are inherent in the equipment which means that, for the most part, intervention by administrative personnel is not required and that the maintenance of security is not jeopardized.

A highly competitive market dictates that the technically sophisticated equipment be installed at little or no cost to the facility and that the provider's commissions be paid to the facility. The commissions facilities receive are a major source of revenue for the inmate welfare funds which finance inmate programs such as family visitation, education and rehabilitation programs. Thus, many of the positive aspects of incarceration are actually being paid for by the inmates.

Succinctly put, most, if not all, of the positive factors derived from the current way of doing business will be discarded if Billed Party Preference becomes a reality. The industry would be going back to the period prior to 1987 when few correctional facilities in the country were paid commissions and many had to pay for their inmate phone service. From a financial point of view, it could be a disaster. Local telephone and long distance companies would no longer have to pay commissions because there would be no competition. Without commissions, facilities would have to turn to their governing body and taxpayers and compete for already scarce resources. Inmate morale funding would be decreased and attended by an increase in inmate control problems. Who would pay for the inmate phone equipment necessary to control calls and prevent fraud and abuse? Again, facilities would have to turn to government sources. Cutting existing programs or increasing taxes would be the requirement to balance budgets. With inmate populations growing at rates estimated from 10 to 15 percent per year, inmate populations could increase by 40 percent by the end of the century. This, of course, will mandate an increase in the number of facilities and manpower to administer them. More inmates and facilities will necessitate more non-revenue producing inmate phone systems if BPP were approved for correctional facilities.

I appeal for your support in **defeating Communications Commission Docket 92-77** with the saying, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!" Even though inmate phone service is not perfect, a competitive market helps ensure that improvement continues.

Sincerely,



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July 20, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

Jul 28 3 08 PM '94

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AUG 11 2 1994

Re: CC Docket #92-77

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to voice my concerns about the proposed Billed Party Preference regulation. The correctional facility inmate phone industry would be severely jeopardized by BPP, affecting inmates, their families and the criminal justice system as a whole. *For this reason, we are asking that inmate calls be exempt from the proposed BPP regulation.*

Over the past ten years, administrators of correctional facilities have been able to put into place a very effective system for allowing inmate phone calls. The right to choose our phone service provider has been key to our success. This service has always been delivered to us at very reasonable rates. What's more, inmate phone commissions have been a significant source of revenue for our facility and have helped us improve it dramatically. *We use this revenue to fund various programs including: law enforcement education; inmate health, education and recreation; jail personnel safety; drug prevention and other community programs; family visitation etc.*

Here are a few of my biggest concerns about Billed Party Preference:

- It strips correctional facility administrators of the right to choose inmate phone providers.
- Technology for BPP would reportedly cost upwards of \$1.5 billion, an expense that would have to be passed along to the consumer.
- Without the authority to process calls, inmate phone providers would no longer have the revenue to provide the sophisticated phone systems used in prisons. The end result: fewer phones with fewer security features. Facilities would have to revert to the old ways of supervising each and every inmate call.
- The average length of stay in jail would increase because inmates would not have the phone privileges required to make arrangements for obtaining bond. *This costs everyone!*
- Under BPP, correctional facilities would no longer have control over inmate calls, which means no call tracking or blocking. Inmates could conceivably harass judges, witnesses, jury members or even the victims of their crimes.
- Without call control, facilities would be unable to control fraud problems currently handled by inmate phone providers.

For the above reasons, and countless others, we believe that THE COSTS OF BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE FOR INMATE CALLS FAR OUTWEIGH THE BENEFITS. If BPP does become regulation, we urge you to make inmate calls exempt. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Capt. Ken Wilson
Platte Co Sheriff's Dept.
Platte city mo. 64029

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Madison County Sheriff's Department

PO BOX 16, WAMPVILLE, NEW YORK 13163

RONALD I. CARY
SHERIFF

Jul 28 3 08 PM '94

D. P. BAILEY
UNDERSHERIFFLT. G. E. ABRAMS
CRIMINAL DIVISIONLT. P. M. PURDY
CORRECTIONAL DIVISION

SHERIFF	(315) 366-2318
UNDERSHERIFF	366-2404
JAIL	366-2289
EMERGENCY	366-2311
CIVIL DIVISION	366-2324
	366-2325
PISTOL PERMITS	366-2406
SHERIFF'S IDS	

July 25, 1994

RECEIVED**AUG 1 2 1994**

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed
Party Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

We have analyzed the security land administration needs at our facility and have found it to be necessary to route inmate calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. We cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us, and few that will be trained to handle inmate calls.

We have also found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Given the constant budgetary constraints that we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of inmate phone service providers. BPP would also eliminate the revenue stream that finances our inmate phones. If BPP is applied to inmate facilities, there will be no way for us to finance these phones, nor will there be inmate phone service providers to assist us. Without inmate phones, the morale of inmates will be devastated. The resulting increase in tension

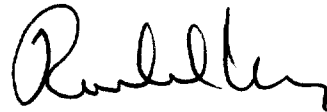
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will make it more difficult for our staff to manage inmates.

Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay for calls. We fully appreciate the FCC's concern if some Sheriffs do not take responsibility for protecting inmate families from abusive rates. We do not agree with the FCC that the solution for this lack of responsibility is the is BPP. The proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let Sheriffs enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of Sheriffs are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. We urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions--decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ronald I. Cary", with a stylized, cursive script.

Ronald I. Cary
Madison County Sheriff

RIC/kam

COUNTY OF NEVADA

PAUL RANKIN
SHERIFF - CORONER
ERIC ROOD ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
938 HANCOCK AVE
NEVADA CITY CA 95959-8617
(916) 265-1471

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July 22, 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Billed Party Preference; CC Docket Number 92-77

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am the Sheriff and Jail Administrator of Nevada County, California. I am requesting that the Federal Communications Commission exempt local jails from the proposed "billed party preference" system for 0+ Inter LATA payphone traffic rules.

It would appear that we would be losing our ability to closely monitor telephone calls during investigations, and would likely lose our ability to quickly block calls to protect victims and witnesses from intimidation, as well as families and friends from unwanted calls and harassment. If this were to occur, the inmates present unlimited access to telephone service would have to be curtailed and those calls monitored or supervised by correctional officers. This would create a great inconvenience for the inmates and their families as well as a hardship on the already overburdened correctional staff. The eliminating of the 0+ commissions currently received from our present systems would impact numerous inmate welfare programs that are currently being funded through these sources to the detriment of the inmates.

I urge you to exempt local jails from this regulation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Paul Rankin
Sheriff-Coroner
Public Administrator

PR/vm

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July 20, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: CC Docket #92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to voice my concerns about the proposed Billed Party Preference regulation. The correctional facility inmate phone industry would be severely jeopardized by BPP, affecting inmates, their families and the criminal justice system as a whole. *For this reason, we are asking that inmate calls be exempt from the proposed BPP regulation.*

Over the past ten years, administrators of correctional facilities have been able to put into place a very effective system for allowing inmate phone calls. The right to choose our phone service provider has been key to our success. This service has always been delivered to us at very reasonable rates. What's more, inmate phone commissions have been a significant source of revenue for our facility and have helped us improve it dramatically. *We use this revenue to fund various programs including: law enforcement education; inmate health, education and recreation; jail personnel safety; drug prevention and other community programs; family visitation etc.*

Here are a few of my biggest concerns about Billed Party Preference:

- It strips correctional facility administrators of the right to choose inmate phone providers.
- Technology for BPP would reportedly cost upwards of \$1.5 billion, an expense that would have to be passed along to the consumer.
- Without the authority to process calls, inmate phone providers would no longer have the revenue to provide the sophisticated phone systems used in prisons. The end result: fewer phones with fewer security features. Facilities would have to revert to the old ways of supervising each and every inmate call.
- The average length of stay in jail would increase because inmates would not have the phone privileges required to make arrangements for obtaining bond. *This costs everyone!*
- Under BPP, correctional facilities would no longer have control over inmate calls, which means no call tracking or blocking. Inmates could conceivably harass judges, witnesses, jury members or even the victims of their crimes.
- Without call control, facilities would be unable to control fraud problems currently handled by inmate phone providers.

For the above reasons, and countless others, we believe that THE COSTS OF BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE FOR INMATE CALLS FAR OUTWEIGH THE BENEFITS. If BPP does become regulation, we urge you to make inmate calls exempt. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,



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July 20, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

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Re: CC Docket #92-77

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Sincerely,

Michael L. Parson

MICHAEL L. PARSON
FOLK COUNTY SHERIFF

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Dona Ana County

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180 West Amador Avenue • Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001-1202 • (505) 525-6600

July 22, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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AUG 12 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: Billed Party Preference; CC Docket No. 92.77

Honorable Chairman Hundt:

Doña Ana County Detention Center in Las Cruces, New Mexico is opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at this facility. The rationale for having assumed this position is three fold.

First is the aspect of security. Prisoners should not be allowed to have indiscriminate access to a telephone communication network. Abusive telephone calls, fraud and other criminal activity will occur if telephone communications are not controlled.

Second is the aspect of revenue. The single provider telephone system provides for revenue that is returned to the jail population. Items such as cable television, television sets, weight and recreation equipment are provided using the telephone system as revenue. Should this revenue be unavailable, the burden of providing these items falls back on the public. In reality, the cost should be paid for by the individuals that are being incarcerated.

The third concern pertains to the cost of providing for the inmate telephone system. When the revenues for an inmate telephone system deteriorate to the point that it no longer is profitable for the telephone system provider, then the cost of providing for such a system will rest with the public.

BPP is not the answer. Detention Centers need control of inmate telephone systems that are provided and maintained by those companies that have expertise with these systems. The inmate telephone system is an important part of the inmate life. BPP would severely inhibit the inmate's access to a telephone, it would develop an unnecessary administrative load on the facility and would degrade the security that is necessary in detention centers.

I urge you to not adopt legislation that would add to the burden of our operation and interfere with the day-to-day administration of detention centers that are already tasked to the limit in providing niceties to the inmate population.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank A. Steele". The signature is stylized with large, overlapping loops and a prominent "X" shape in the middle.

Frank A. Steele
Detention Administrator
DACDC

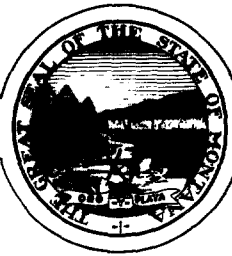
FAS/pl

cc:

Honorable James H. Quello
Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
Honorable Susan Ness
APCC Inmate Phone Service Providers Task Force

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
AND HUMAN SERVICES

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MARC RACICOT, GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

JUL 22 3 07 PM '94

1539 11TH AVENUE

(406) 444-3930
FAX: (406) 444-4920

PO BOX 201301
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1301

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AUG 12 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

HONORABLE REED E. HUNDT, CHAIRMAN
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20554

July 22, 1994

RE: CC DOCKET 92-77 OPPOSITION TO BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are opposed to the application of billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

Upon analyzing the security and administration needs at Montana facilities we find it necessary to route inmate calls from our facility to a single carrier equipped to handle such calls and with whom we have a contractual agreement. It would not work for us to give inmates the choice of carrier, many of whom are not familiar with the handling of inmate calls.

Our phone equipment is specifically designed for inmate calls, helps prevent fraud, abusive calls and other possible criminal activity utilizing phones. The inmate phone system we have is financially possible; BPP would eliminate necessary revenue for the continuation of inmate phone service.

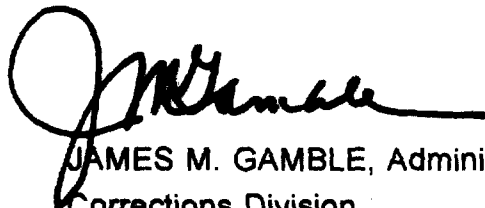
Further, we do not agree with the FCC that BPP is the answer to abusive rates. We recommend the adoption of rate ceilings on inmate calls.

We urge you not to adopt regulations which interfere with our administrative and security decisions - again, we oppose Billed Party Preference.

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Thank you for your consideration of our input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. M. Gamble', with a large circular flourish at the beginning.

JAMES M. GAMBLE, Administrator
Corrections Division

July 20, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

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- Technology for BPP would reportedly cost upwards of \$1.5 billion, an expense that would have to be passed along to the consumer.
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- The average length of stay in jail would increase because inmates would not have the phone privileges required to make arrangements for obtaining bond. *This costs everyone!*
- Under BPP, correctional facilities would no longer have control over inmate calls, which means no call tracking or blocking. Inmates could conceivably harass judges, witnesses, jury members or even the victims of their crimes.
- Without call control, facilities would be unable to control fraud problems currently handled by inmate phone providers.

For the above reasons, and countless others, we believe that THE COSTS OF BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE FOR INMATE CALLS FAR OUTWEIGH THE BENEFITS. If BPP does become regulation, we urge you to make inmate calls exempt. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

DADE COUNTY SHERIFF DEPT.
201 Water Street
GREENFIELD, MISSOURI 65661
(417) 637-6344

Wayne Spann
Sheriff

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OSARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MAX VAUGHAN, SHERIFF

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COURTHOUSE

PHONE #17-679-4633

GAINESVILLE, MISSOURI 65655

JUL 20 3 07 PM '94

July 20, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

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Sincerely,

Max Vaughan

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July 20, 1994

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1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

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Sincerely,

Relda Jura
Douglas Co. Sheriff -

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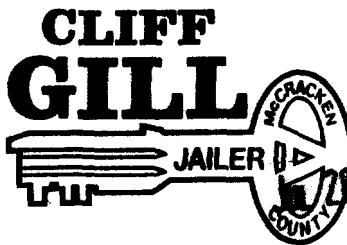
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Joseph Shearer
Sheriff Cedar Co.

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400 South 7th Street
Paducah, Kentucky 42003
(502) 444-4723



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Secretary

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AUG 12 1994

July 25, 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Honorable Hundt:

The imposing of Billed Party Preference by the FCC would interfere with the ability of Jailers to manage and control inmate calling.

Under BPP an inmate could select any long distance carrier and I would loose security and fraud control which I presently have on the phone system.

BPP would also cut revenue McCracken County receives from the inmate phone system which is in excess of \$4,000 per month. The McCracken County Jail presently averages 290 phone calls daily.

Security Telecom, our inmate phone service provider, installed a six station computer system along with a video imaging system, a \$60,000 installation, at no cost to the County.

Your help in getting the Billed Party Preference stopped would be greatly appreciated by myself and McCracken County.

Enclosed are some of the comments made about BPP by Sheriffs and Jail Administrators across the country.

Sincerely,

Cliff Gill
McCracken County Jailer

CG:vt

Enclosures

cc: Honorable James Quello, Commissioner
Honorable Rachelle Chong, Commissioner
Honorable Andrew Barrett, Commissioner
Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner

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EXCERPTS FROM COMMENTS FILED OPPOSING BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE

JULY 1994

"As a correctional facility administrator, I am in the best position to evaluate what call controls are necessary and in the best interest of inmates and the general public--not the federal government. Telephone call controls are necessary in order to prevent abuse and fraud."

"Call abuse and fraud at correctional facilities are worse than at non-inmate locations!"

"BPP will, in effect, grant every inmate at my facilities a new federal right to use the long distance carrier of his choice. As the guardian of that inmate, I will no longer have control over how inmate calls are routed."

"Allowing inmate calls to go to any long distance carrier, as opposed to a service provider chosen by me and contractually committed to provide call and fraud controls, will threaten security. It is necessary to have a service provider with whom I am in daily contact, one who can service my needs by installing number blocking, PINs, screening out calls to persons inmate wish to threaten, and eliminating a primary avenue of gang control inside the walls. I vigorously oppose any federal interference with my ability to manage and control inmates' calling."

"The revenue-sharing arrangements with an inmate phone provider have been an innovative and effective means of financing important inmate programs, such as family visitation, education, drug rehabilitation programs, law libraries, and sports. Increased phone availability and inmate programs financed through revenue-sharing have brought R.I.D.O.C. inmates improved morale, rehabilitation and reduced recidivism."

"Facility administrators cannot independently finance sophisticated inmate calling equipment through the general budget. The public and legislators do not want to provide amenities for inmates."

"Successful programs and rehabilitation efforts will be cancelled if BPP is enacted. All revenue generated by inmate collect calls is used exclusively for the benefit of inmates."

"At a time of fiscal crisis in government, the FCC should not be cutting off a critical source of revenue that benefits inmates."

"Enactment of BPP will end inmate use of the telephone as far as I am concerned. If BPP is instituted, the danger to society of letting inmates control the collect calling system instead of the administration is just too great a threat to allow inmates access to telephones."

George A. Vose, Jr., Director
Rhode Island DOC

"Department staff, Telecommunications staff, and AT&T project team members strived to develop a system that would meet the department's needs, the inmates' needs and, most importantly, their families' needs. In order to do this, the group worked closely with Reverend Mary K. Friskies-Warren, Director of Reconciliation, a family prison support group."

"The inmates and their families, as reported by Reverend Friskies-Warren are pleased with ITS (Inmate Telephone System)."

Christine L. Bradley, Commissioner
Tennessee DOC

"These revenues have allowed this correctional facility to fund critical rehabilitation programs, vocational equipment and educational programs that would not otherwise be possible with the economic situation of our county."

Patricia R. Tappan, Commissioner
Onondaga County, New York

"It is my feeling that extending BPP to inmate calls would create serious negative implications for both this facility as well as for the inmates themselves."

"The reduction and/or elimination of inmate phones could ultimately result "

"Without the financial assistance, many jails and prisons may likely revert back to past, restrictive methods of allowing inmate calling."

"I feel that the long distance rates could actually increase over Bell Company and AT&T rates. The reason for this can be attributed to the standing policy of the FCC which requires that the cost of any new service be paid for by the actual users of the service rather than the general public. The estimated cost of implementing BPP is expected to be 1.5 billion dollars. This figure could further escalate if the costs of adding special fraud and security features are factored in. These costs would in all likelihood be borne exclusively by inmate families and others who receive inmate calls."

Allan K. Kehl, Sheriff
Lt. Mark E. Schlecht
Kenosha County, Wisconsin

"Billed Party Preference will undermine the ability of jail administrators and jail staff to control inmate calling, will increase expenses, and will reduce services available to jail inmates."

"Additionally, BPP will place a greater burden on the local taxpayers for needed security devices."

James P. Drury, President
John L. Kammerzell, Ex. Director
County Sheriffs of Colorado

"There is a difference in who benefits from a phone system in a prison environment versus a phone utilized by the general public."

"Charges for calls have always been based on local tariffed rates. Surcharges are not permitted."

"The loss of this service will result in major cutbacks in the number of phones, access to phones, and the ability to provide quality phone services to inmates. The ODOC does not have the funding needed to replace the inmate phone system."

Larry A. Field, Director
Oklahoma DOC

"Billed Party Preference will eliminate all security controls by the correctional facility over inmate telephones by opening up the telephone service to excessive fraud by inmates. This fraud will be detrimental to the public as well as to the Correctional facility, because the facility will have little control to fight this problem "

"Live operators who are not trained to handle prisoner calls, will be subject to verbal abuse and harassment from the prisoners."

"The correctional facilities will have no logical way to fight inmate abuse. Local facilities desiring specialized systems to fight fraud and abuse will have to budget extensively for these features."

"Billed Party Preference will do nothing more than undermine the correctional administrators ability to control all inmates in our facilities and to prevent fraudulent conduct and behavior. It will decrease public safety to all whom are involved in the criminal justice systems "

"If this proposal passes, the correctional facilities across the country will have no control over security when inmate telephones are involved. The public will no longer be able to look to the correctional administrator for help in this area."

Carl R. Harbaugh, Sheriff
Frederick County, Maryland

"The State's Jail Standards Committee, of which I am a member, recently revised Standard 4.35 of the State Jail Standards to read; "Written policy, procedure, and practice shall ensure inmates reasonable access to telephone facilities. The expense of such access shall not exceed the average rates charged to the local community."

Additionally, the responsible departments of the Commonwealth have assigned investigators to concentrate on this specific problem and correct misuse."

"Regarding discussions of revenue sharing based on inmate telephone use, I see this as a win-win situation in this time of austere budgets and declining operating funds. The carrier gains financially, the incarceration facility gains financially, and because of the facility's financial gain, the inmates gain through support programs and supply items."

J.R. Dewan, Superintendent
Western Tidewater Regional Jail, Virginia

"Such a threat translates into increased difficulty (or inability) in meeting constitutional and court ordered mandates, thus increased exposure to civil liabilities and increased potential for dire losses to the jurisdiction "

C.W. Smith, Sheriff
Lt. D.K. Roughton
Jackson County, Oregon

"It is crucial that each facility have the technological specialists necessary to respond immediately to daily security concerns



June 30, 1994

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The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW - Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

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AUG 11 2 1994

Re: Billed Party Preference/CC Docket No. 92-77

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are writing to express our opposition to your agency's proposal to implement Billed Party preference ("BPP") throughout the telephone network. Our association represents several independent payphone providers ("IPP's") in the state of Nevada. We are responsible for procuring and overseeing the operation of telecommunications facilities and services, including pay telephone and other telephone systems located at our facilities. BPP will drastically alter our ability to continue to provide the public with quality telecommunications service.

Our phones are all programmed to allow callers to access the carrier of their choice, in compliance with the Telephone Operator Consumer Services Improvement Act of 1990 (TOCSIA). BPP is in our opinion an unnecessary federal response to a problem that has already effectively been resolved.

BPP will cost billions to implement and the consumers will ultimately bear the cost. Additionally, consumers will be faced with longer call set up times and will need to repeat billing information on some calls.

BPP will effectively eliminate competition and innovation. Prior to deregulation the local exchange carriers ("LEC's") were the monopoly providers of public communications. Competition has brought new service options, greater responsiveness to our needs and fair commission structures. BPP will allow the LEC's total control over the initiation and routing of 0+ calls and enable them to further their own objectives at our expense.

As in any business, we are concerned about the rates charged to consumers. We require our payphone providers and OSP's to only charge competitive rates. If the Commission feels consumers need additional protection, it would seem that a better alternative to BPP would be to establish and enforce reasonable rate ceilings.

We respectfully ask the commission to reject the Billed Party preference proposal.

Sincerely,

Albert Mednicoff
President
IM/dtj

cc's The Honorable James H. Quello
The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
The Honorable Susan Ness

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Harford County Sheriff's Office

P.O. BOX 150
BEL AIR, MARYLAND 21014-0150



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

ROBERT E. COMES

July 20, 1994

Sheriff

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: BPP:CC Docket No. 92-77

Dear Sir:

I am writing in protest of the proposed Billed Party Preference ("BPP"). As Warden of a County Detention Facility, I need the control that our inmate phone system provides.

Currently, we are able to accomodate the victims of crimes who request their phone number be blocked in order that they not be further victimized, parents whose daughters are constantly being called, and members of the general public who complain that inmates are harassing them. We will not be able to protect these citizens should your proposal be adopted. Likewise, we shall not be able to prevent the phone fraud that has been virtually non-existent since the installation of our current system.

Having control of the inmate calling system is an important tool in management of the facility inmate population. Abolishing that tool will greatly diminish the security which we now enjoy. Furthermore, I would be remiss if I failed to note that all inmate access to phones would be greatly diminished as the facility would be unable to provide the equipment which is now furnished by our contracted provider. We have no funding for equipment, nor for the numerous service calls/repairs. With ever increasing numbers in our population and budget cutbacks for the past several years, our budget is extremely limited. All these items are provided free by our contractor, whose rate was set by the Public Service Commission.

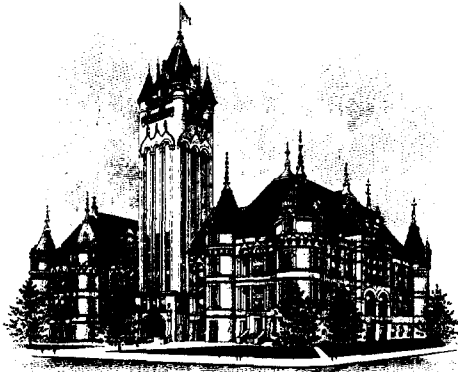
Your adoption of this regulation will not assist anyone; it can only be detrimental to inmates, Correctional facilities and the public they serve.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Mr. Paul Hastmann, Warden
Harford County Detention Center
Bel Air, Maryland 21014-2322

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CC: Sheriff Robert E. Comes



SPOKANE COUNTY COURT HOUSE

July 21, 1994

Policy and Program Planning Division
Common Carrier Bureau, Room 544
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

LARRY V. ERICKSON
SPOKANE COUNTY SHERIFF

JOHN A. GOLDMAN, Undersheriff
MICHAEL J. AUBREY, Undersheriff
DONALD R. MANNING, Chief Criminal Deputy
JAMES J. HILL, Jail Commander
JOHN H. MCGREGOR, Patrol Captain

COUNTY-CITY PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99260



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

92-77

Dear Members,

Billed Party Preference (BPP), as we see it, threatens the controls we have on our inmate phone system and the source of funding for our Inmate Welfare Fund.

U.S. West is supplying us with equipment which will prevent three-way calling and stop fraudulent non-collectable calls. The system also provides a means of screening all calls and completing calls only to numbers approved by the Jail Administration. This allows us to prevent, or stop, harassing phone calls by inmates.

Our Inmate Welfare Fund receives money from inmate phone commissions. In return, inmates gain legal resources, educational opportunities, behavior training, recreation/relaxation items, and indigent services.

We, the Jail Administration and not the inmates, are the contracting party with U.S. West. We just don't see where BPP would help us, and we haven't asked for it.

If your concern is with the phone costs to the inmates, please consider the cost of implementing BPP since the inmates would ultimately cover that cost. Also, in Washington State, phone rates are regulated by the Washington Public Utilities Commission, which keeps the costs down for the inmates.

In conclusion, we urge you to exempt jails which have inmate phone services with the controls and benefits we have described from Billed Party Preference.

Sincerely,

LARRY V. ERICKSON, Sheriff

Captain James J. Hill
Jail Commander
Spokane County Jail

JJH:pjb

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AUG 12 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

July 20, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

Re: CC Docket #92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to voice my concerns about the proposed Billed Party Preference regulation. The correctional facility inmate phone industry would be severely jeopardized by BPP, affecting inmates, their families and the criminal justice system as a whole. *For this reason, we are asking that inmate calls be exempt from the proposed BPP regulation.*

Over the past ten years, administrators of correctional facilities have been able to put into place a very effective system for allowing inmate phone calls. The right to choose our phone service provider has been key to our success. This service has always been delivered to us at very reasonable rates. What's more, inmate phone commissions have been a significant source of revenue for our facility and have helped us improve it dramatically. *We use this revenue to fund various programs including: law enforcement education; inmate health, education and recreation; jail personnel safety; drug prevention and other community programs; family visitation etc.*

Here are a few of my biggest concerns about Billed Party Preference:

- It strips correctional facility administrators of the right to choose inmate phone providers.
- Technology for BPP would reportedly cost upwards of \$1.5 billion, an expense that would have to be passed along to the consumer.
- Without the authority to process calls, inmate phone providers would no longer have the revenue to provide the sophisticated phone systems used in prisons. The end result: fewer phones with fewer security features. Facilities would have to revert to the old ways of supervising each and every inmate call.
- The average length of stay in jail would increase because inmates would not have the phone privileges required to make arrangements for obtaining bond. *This costs everyone!*
- Under BPP, correctional facilities would no longer have control over inmate calls, which means no call tracking or blocking. Inmates could conceivably harass judges, witnesses, jury members or even the victims of their crimes.
- Without call control, facilities would be unable to control fraud problems currently handled by inmate phone providers.

For the above reasons, and countless others, we believe that THE COSTS OF BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE FOR INMATE CALLS FAR OUTWEIGH THE BENEFITS. If BPP does become regulation, we urge you to make inmate calls exempt. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,



KEVIN VAN OTTERLOO
KOSSUTH COUNTY SHERIFF ALGONA IOWA

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AUG 12 1994

July 20, 1994

The Honorable Christopher S. Bond
 United States Senate
 Russell Bldg., Room 293
 Washington, D. C. 20510

FEDERAL COMMISSION
 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: CC Docket #92-77

Dear Senator:

I am writing to voice my concerns about the proposed Billed Party Preference regulation. The correctional facility inmate phone industry would be severely jeopardized by BPP, affecting inmates, their families and the criminal justice system as a whole. *For this reason, we are asking that inmate calls be exempt from the proposed BPP regulation.*

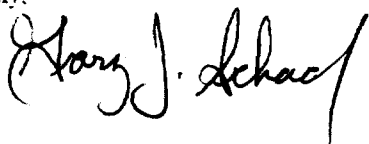
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Sincerely,



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